

U.S. Pat. Appl'n. No. 10/034,404
Am't Dated September 7, 2004
Response to Office Action Dated April 5, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1–24 are pending, with claims 1, 6, 14 and 18 being the only independent claims. Claims 1, 14 and 18 are amended herein. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1–24 are rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,400,018 (Scholl et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,553,290 (Pillar). The rejection respectfully is traversed.

Applicants previously expressed an opinion—still held—that the references could not properly be combined. However, the Examiner cogently argues that the issue is not whether Scholl et al. and Pillar can be physically combined. Rather, the Office Action states that Scholl et al. teaches all of the claimed features except for an input from the vehicle operator interface being responsive to at least one computer-generated question, as generally recited in claims 1, 6, 14 and 18. Pillar, it is argued, teaches a computer-generated question.

However, neither Scholl et al. and Pillar disclose or suggest a vehicle operator interface configured to receive input from a vehicle operator and to display a plurality of prompts to the vehicle operator *according to a predetermined algorithm*, wherein the input from the vehicle operator interface is responsive to at least one computer-generated question, as generally recited in claims 1 and 6.

Moreover, neither Scholl et al. and Pillar disclose or suggest, among other things, inputs that are provided in response to at least one computer-generated question, the question generated *according to a predetermined algorithm*, as recited in claims 14 and 18.

Since the references, even when combined, do not disclose or suggest all of the

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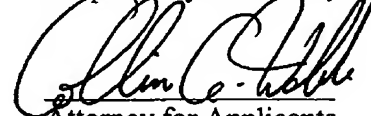
features of the claimed invention, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the previous response placed the application in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants request entry, consideration and a speedy Notice of Allowance.

No fee, other than the for the extension of time, is believed due in connection with this Amendment. However, should any fee be necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 14-0780, now or throughout prosecution.

Should any questions remain, Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New Holland, Pennsylvania office by telephone at (717) 355-4954.

Respectfully submitted,



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